



# SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY TIPS



## BE ALERT

Your eyes and ears are your best source of warning when severe weather is threatening. Stay tuned to local radio, TV, and NOAA Weather radio stations in Atlanta for weather bulletins and information. If you see or hear severe weather approaching, seek the best shelter available immediately. Do not wait until a warning is issued as there may not be time to react properly.

## LEARN THE SAFETY MEASURES THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WEATHER. WATCH FOR THESE DANGER SIGNS:

A severe thunderstorm may produce strong gusty winds. Hail may also be present.

A funnel cloud is a dark column spinning from sky to ground. A loud roaring noise may be heard which sounds like a freight train.

## PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

At home: Go to a basement or storm shelter if one is available. If not, go to a room near the center of the house and away from windows.

In schools, hospitals, nursing homes, industry, etc.: Go to an interior area on the lowest floor, preferably a hallway or stairwell. Stay out of areas with large roof spans such as auditoriums and gymnasiums. Stay away from glassed areas.

In your car: Stop! Get out and lie down in a low area, covering your head. NEVER attempt to outrun a tornado in your car.

Outside: If you are caught outside and cannot get into a building providing adequate protection, lie down in a low area such as a ditch or a ravine and cover your head.

## SOME DON'TS TO REMEMBER

Don't call 911 or emergency services such as police, EMS, or fire departments to get information. Call only if you have an emergency.

Don't stay in mobile homes. Seek shelter elsewhere.  
Don't try to outrun a tornado on foot or in a car.

## WATCHES AND WARNINGS: KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN AND WHAT TO DO

### SEVERE THUNDERSTORM OR TORNADO WATCH:

These watches are issued for a large area and for a specified time period. They may be extended if needed. These watches mean that conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms and/or tornadoes in or near the watch area. When a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch is issued for this area, stay tuned to local radio, TV, and NOAA weather radio stations for weather updates and information.

### SEVERE THUNDERSTORM OR TORNADO WARNING:

These warnings are issued for a small area, usually several counties, and are effective immediately upon issuance. Warnings mean that a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been identified by a storm spotter or confirmed by the National Weather Service radar in the area or will be entering the area shortly. When these warnings are issued, be observant for rapidly changing weather conditions. Listen to local radio and TV stations and be prepared to seek shelter immediately if the severe weather approaches you.

## YOUR FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

Prepare a family disaster plan. Be sure that everyone in the family is familiar with the plan and knows what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. Publications for the development of family disaster plans, disaster supply kits, and emergency checklists are available from the American Red Cross and the Emergency Management Office.

Practice the plan occasionally.

Put together a basic "emergency kit" to include flashlights, a battery-powered radio, fresh spare batteries, and first aid supplies.

## TRAINING COURSES:

First Aid and CPR courses are available from the American Red Cross. For information regarding these courses, contact the Red Cross Office.

**This message is a public service of the City of Fayetteville Fire Department  
For more information, please call 770-461-4548 or contact Fayette County EMA at 770-461-1321**